

Camb/VN

3-20-75

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O 201005Z MAR 75 ZFFA
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 8:12Z
BT
UNCLAS STATE 062814

TOSSEC 806

FOL REPEAT SAIGON 3187 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC JEC
PARIS BIENHOA CAN THO DANANG NHATRANG MAR 20, 1975

QUOTE

UNCLAS SAIGON 3187

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FINT, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON WAR SITUATION

1. PRES THIEU GAVE THE FOLLOWING RADIO ADDRESS AT 1:00 P.M.
LOCAL TIME MAR 20.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR COMPATRIOTS: SINCE 4 MAR 1975, THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONCENTRATED ALL OF THEIR FORCES TO
LAUNCH A GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE RVN THROUGHOUT THE
TERRITORIES OF THE FOUR MILITARY REGIONS.

IN FOLLOWING THE WAR SITUATION OVER THE PAST 2 WEEKS THE
COMPATRIOTS HAVE REALIZED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS
HAVE CUT OFF THE TWO VITAL HIGHWAYS 19 AND 21 LINKING THE COASTAL
AREAS WITH THE (CENTRAL HIGHLANDS), OVERRUN BAN ME THUOT CITY,
AND EXERTED PRESSURE ON A NUMBER OF OTHER PROVINCES, SUCH AS
THUA THIEN, QUANG NAM, AND QUANG TIN IN MR-1, AND TAY NINH AND
LONG KHANH IN MR-3, WHILE INTENSIFYING THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST
VILLAGES, HAMLETS AND POSTS AND SABOTAGING COMMUNICATIONS LINES
IN MR-4.

MOST RECENTLY, ON 19 MAR, NORTH VIETNAMESE INFANTRYMEN AND
TANKS CROSSED THE THACH HAN RIVER IN FORCE AND LAUNCHED LARGE-
SCALE ATTACKS AGAINST THE OLD CITADEL (AS HEARD) AND OUR QUANG
TRI PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN HAI LANG, WHILE VIGOROUSLY SHELLING
HUE CITY.

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IN THIS WAVE OF THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT ONLY DEPLOYED 14 INFANTRY DIVISIONS ALREADY ON HAND ON RVN TERRITORY, BUT IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THEY HAVE ALSO INFILTRATED FIVE ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS INTO OUR TERRITORY. THESE HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM EIGHT GENERAL RESERVE DIVISIONS IN NORTH VIETNAM.

WITH THESE 19 DIVISIONS, IN COORDINATION WITH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TANKS AND ARTILLERY PIECES THAT HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED ON A LARGE-SCALE BASIS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CREATED AN OBVIOUS SUPERIORITY IN THE BALANCE OF FORCES AND FIREPOWER ON A FEW FRONTS.

OVER THE PAST 2 WEEKS, ON VARIOUS BATTLEFIELDS IN HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS, OUR ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE, IN SPITE OF THE PRESENT LIMITED MILITARY AID, HAVE HEROICALLY EXTERMINATED THE ENEMY AND SUCCESSFULLY CHECKED HIS ADVANCE. IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WHERE WE HAVE HAD TO FIGHT THE ENEMY ON A ONE TO FOUR BASIS, OUR ARVN TROOPS HAD TO REDEPLOY THEIR FORCES SO AS TO PRESERVE THEIR STRENGTH AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE COMBAT IN THE PRESENT STAGE. THEREFORE, OUR ARMED FORCES DID NOT DEFEND KON Tum AND PLEIKU CITIES.

ON OTHER BATTLEFIELDS FROM THUA THIEN TO THE COASTAL AREAS IN MILITARY REGION II AND MILITARY REGIONS III AND IV, WE ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND OUR TERRITORY UNTIL THE END. REPORTS ABOUT THE ABANDONMENT OF THUA THIEN, DALAT AND A NUMBER OF OTHER LOCALITIES ARE NOTHING BUT COMPLETELY FALSE, GROUNDLESS RUMORS AIMED AT SOWING CONFUSION AMONG THE PEOPLE.

THEREFORE, I CALL ON OUR COMPATRIOTS TO REMAIN CALM AND TO FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WITH OUR CLEAR-CUT ANTI-COMMUNIST WILL, OUR SPIRIT OF PROMOTING SOLIDARITY AND MAKING SACRIFICES IN THE STRUGGLE OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE AND WITH THE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REAR BASE AND THE FRONTLINE, WE WILL NEVER ALLOW THE AGGRESSOR COMMUNISTS TO TAKE OVER THIS BELOVED FREE SOUTH.

I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SITUATION AND I AM CONSIDERING NEW MEASURES WHICH WE WILL ADOPT SUBSEQUENTLY.

I WILL HAVE MORE OCCASIONS TO TALK TO THE COMPATRIOTS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

I CONVEY TO YOU ALL MY CORDIAL REGARDS. END TEXT.
LEHMANN

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL.